Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – November 2026

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President's Message

Hello to all our members,

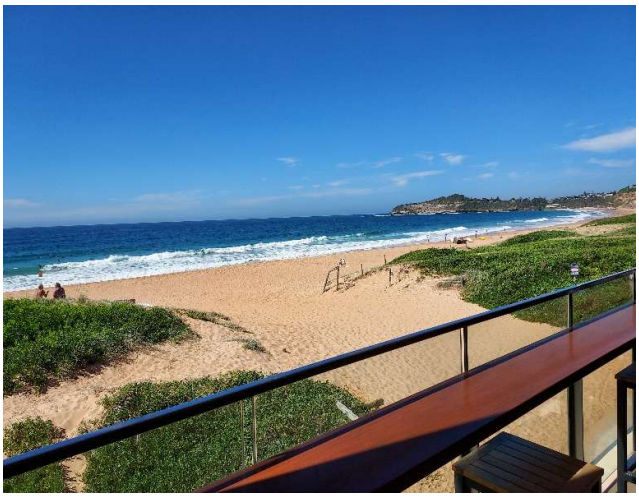
Welcome to our November newsletter and I am very hopeful that you are in fact receiving this publication on a monthly basis, enjoying the content and spreading the word about our club and its activities.

I have been mentioning our Strategic Planning process and indeed Charles Hill has been keeping you up to date with the activities we are undertaking and many of you who were at our last monthly meeting will know that we conducted a short survey to see what you were looking for from the club.

My major concern and primary focus at present relate to filling our vacant committee positions for the remainder of this year and particularly next year. I am also keen to ensure that we have membership growth.

Therefore, I ask you all to consider if you can assist in filling the gaps in the Committee or lending a hand with one of our activities or functions, please let me know or one of the Committee what value you can add to our Club. If that is an issue for you, please just bring along a friend or neighbour to our next meeting to allow them to see the Club's offerings. At this time, we really require each member to contribute to the future success of the club. It was pleasing last meeting that we had two guests who seem to be interested in joining us.

In terms of our Strategic Planning these are the critical items to be resolved!



It appears I may have opened a subject that has many answers when I posed the question about the name of the piece of water that runs past Mona Vale beach. As you will recall I referred to it as the Tasman Sea. There are many articles about this but I concede that the Tasman Sea is a sub basin of the Pacific, that the Sydney coast opens directly to the Pacific, that Oceanographers classify it as Pacific and that the IHO defines the Tasman Sea as a named region.

So, the people who said Pacific Ocean win the bet.

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At our last meeting you would have heard from Andrew Greer, a coffee farmer from Tanzania, this was a first-rate presentation and Andrew will be back in November to talk about Botswana. Definitely you and your visitor will enjoy this.

On the Activities front a great night was had at Sea Wave Restaurant in Avalon and the Archery activity was also well attended and enjoyed. Please see the list of activities and functions on the horizon later in this newsletter.

No history of Mona Vale this month as I really wanted to focus on the Club and ensuring its future, it is important to all of us.

I look forward to seeing lots of old and new faces at our next meeting on Tuesday 10th November.

… Take care of yourself and your loved ones, Bob Horton

Check List

Keep up to date with all that's happening with Pittwater Probus

- *BBQ Winnererremy Bay – Friday 13th November (Change of date)*
- *Sailing on the James Craig – Saturday 14th November*
- *Prawn Pod – Friday 4th December*
- *Christmas Luncheon – Thursday 10th December*
- *Parramatta Power Museum – Thursday 21 January 2027*
- *Devonshire Tea & Scones, West Head – February 2027 (Date to be advised)*

No excuse not to join in.
All details are in the Newsletter!

November 2026 – Main Speaker

Andrew Greer – Botswana

Andrew Greer who spoke about Tanzania at the last meeting will speak about Botswana at the next meeting.

He will talk about the history of attempted colonisation by Germany, England and others, the people, economical situation, environment and issues arising from excess numbers of animals as well as the main national parks and there different habitats and animals.

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November 2026 – 5 Minute Speaker

Richard White – Aussie working in Asia

The Korean War ended in a truce in mid-1953 and less than 20 years later Richard found himself starting a new job within the then newly-emerging computer industry and in a strange country.

An Aussie working in Asia for an American hi-tech company, this is going to be an interesting experience, what could possibly go wrong?. Will it end in tears or smiles? Smiles fortunately.

December 2026 – Main Speaker

Ian Thompson – Australian Inventions

Remember a pipe pole in the middle of the backyard with other pipes sticking out of it plus a whole lot of wires. It of course was that Australian invention, called the Hills Hoist.

Remember that very noisey lawn mower that your neighbour woke you up every Sunday morning with. Again another Australian invention.

Ian Thompson will remind us all of those early Autralian inventions when he joins us in December 2026.

December 2025 – 5 Minute Speaker

Mince Pies & Coffee

Well here we are, at the end of another year and the last meeting for 2026. And what a year it has been! To reflect on all the club activities we have enjoyed, please join President Bob Horton for "a mince pie and coffee".

You cannot end the year in better fashion and in greater company!

When: The December Meeting Tuesday 8th December 2026 in place of the 5-Minute Speaker.

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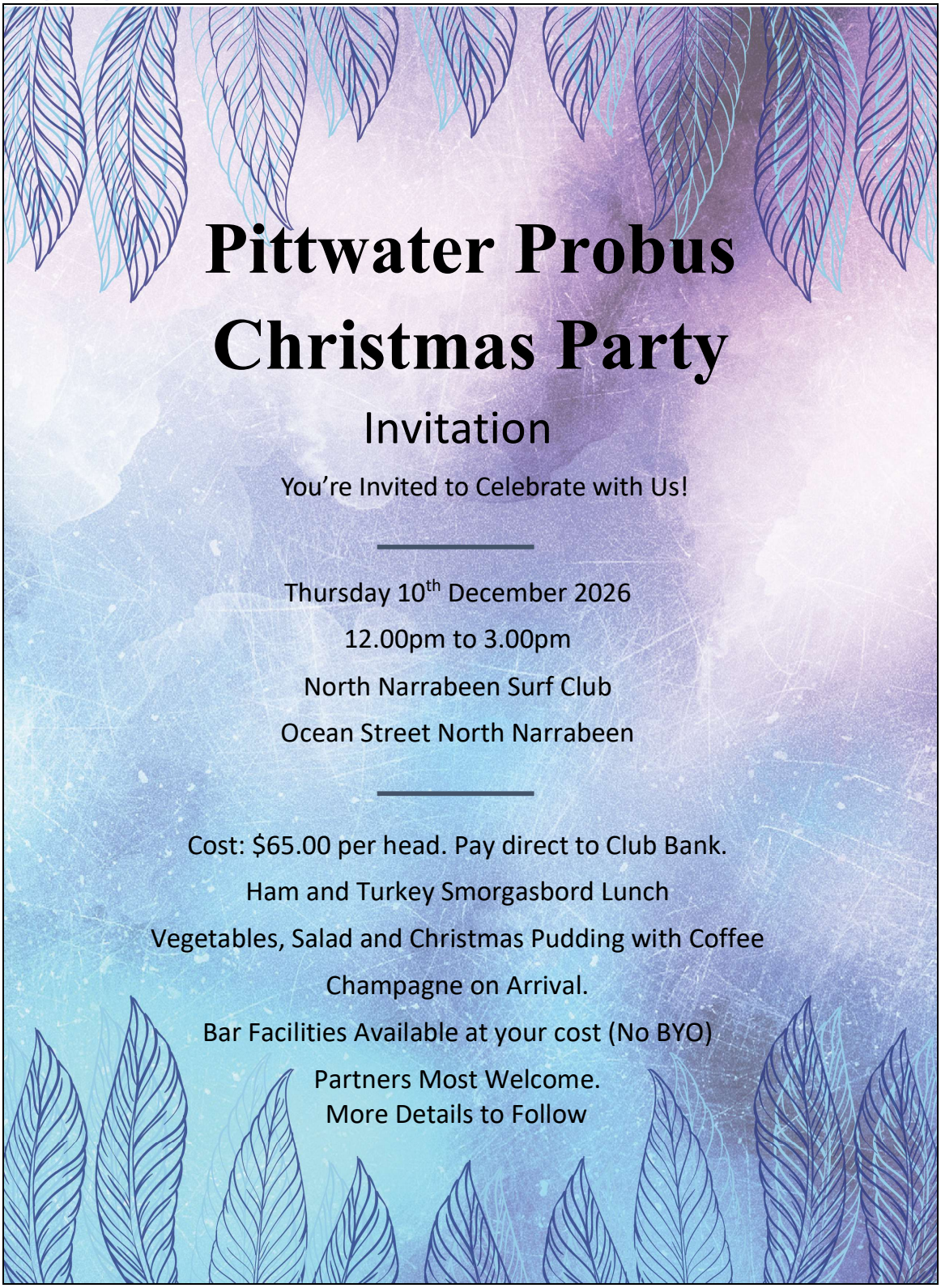
Highlight of the Year



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Which Car!

If I was the boss of Mercedes…

…I would be seriously wondering whether my company will exist in a few years' time. And not just Mercedes. VW have announced that are laying off 50,000 employees! We all know why. This reflects the astonishing growth of Electric vehicles and in particular Asian ones. There are currently over 20 Asian makes, mainly Chinese, selling vehicles into Australia.

Why buy a $100 thousand Mercedes SUV when you can get a vehicle, arguably, just as good, from Hyundai for about half that amount.

That said, the numbers are not quite as bad as David Hutchinson suggested in his talk on climate change. He said, I think, that electric cars are now outselling traditional vehicles. Not quite so.

Using figures from the October issue of "Wheels" Magazine we see that the top selling car in Australia in August was the Tesla Y model with 6,414 units sold in August.

Total car sales that month were a staggering 108,760 vehicles of which only 24.9 % were electric powered, up 0.4% from the same period last year. The rest were petrol and diesel 46.1% and Hybrids (Plug in 10.5% and conventional 18.5%)

73,048 of the 108,760 were SUVs. But Utes, which have been dominant in the market for months, dropped heavily. Ford Rangers sales dropped 50.6% in August and Isuzu 26.2%. The reverse was PHEV Hybrids which, year to date, have increased sales by 124.2%.

So:

Overall, the top selling brand is still Toyota with 19,712 sales, followed by BYD with 8,231, Tesla 7,685, Kia 6,500 and Mazda 6,203.

Toyota held their lead with good sales from three models – Rav4, HiLux and Prado – and are still the largest car manufacturer in the world selling about double the number two.

So, in summary. In Australia Petrol still leads the field, Hydrides are outselling electric, the most popular car in Australia is the Tesla Y but Toyota leads overall and five of the top 10 sellers are Chinese.

PS Oops! Tesla slipped in September to 3rd place. Top seller for the month was again Toyota with 17,682 vehicles sold across all models.

… Bill Sherman/Wheels October Magazine

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BBQ Is Back in November

Spring is here!

This means one thing.

It's time we had a BBQ at Winnererremy Bay!

Mark the day: Friday 13th November 2026

Join us at 5 00 pm. Cost $5 per head.

Pay the Bagman on the day.

Parramatta Powerhouse Museum

Pittwater Probus is kicking off 2027 with a trip to the new Parramatta Powerhouse Museum on Thursday 21 January 2027.

Due to open on 7 November 2026, the new Powerhouse Museum has cost the NSW taxpayer over $915 million (Ouch!!) so it should be stunning and well worth the trip.

The plan is to go out in 12-seater buses from MVSC Carpark. They can be driven by Club Members on normal licences.

The journey takes just over an hour so if we left at 10 00am we would be out there by 11.30, take a couple of hours to look round and then have lunch in what is reported to be a 200-seat restaurant in the Powerhouse, before heading back home arriving about 4.30pm.

The cost will be $30.00 which covers the bus, parking and entry but not lunch.

First of all, please indicate you that you plan to join us by signing the Activity Sheet as it is passed around at the November Meeting. Secondly, please contact me on 0418 257 330 to coordinate drivers of the buses.

… Bill Sherman

It doesn't come better than this!

Sea Wave – Thai Dinner

What a great evening.

Great Setting, Great Company, Great Thai Cuisine, Great Evening.

That's a Pittwater Probus Dinner!

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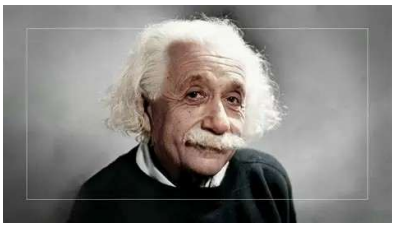
Theory of Relativity



Life is like riding a bicycle.

To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

…. Albert Einstein

Golf Report – Friday 16 October 2026

Due to threatening weather and lack of numbers there was no competition this month.

We are hoping for more players in November. Join in the fun as the team works its way around the challenges of Palm Beach Golf Course

The next game will be at 10 a.m. Friday November 13th 2026.

… Warwick Pope

Speaker's Corner

Andrew Greer – Tanzania

Andrew gave a colourful story of his life in Tanzania and its rich history during the time when Africa was struggling to progress from its colonial realm and its early attempts to engage the rest of the world.

Andrew was born and grew up on a coffee farm on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater, a UNESCO heritage site in the highlands of Tanganyika, now Tanzania. He came to Australia in the early 1960's and attended St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

Andrew's father was an adventurer from New Zealand and his mother a WWII refugee from Poland whose separate life journeys brought them together in Tanganyika. There they purchased and ran a coffee plantation, previously owned by a German family who had been repatriated to their homeland after the war.

In more recent times Andrew has reconnected with the people and places of his childhood, taking groups of family and friends on safari adventures through the wilds of Tanzania.

We look forward to Andrew's next presentation at the Club November Meeting, when he will be talking about Botswana.

… Ron Seldon

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Global Risks – Ranked by Severity

World Economic Forum has conducted a Global Risks Perception Survey and has ranked the results by global severity for the short term (2 years) and the long term (10 years).

It is interesting how time changes one's perspective.

Environmental *Geopolitical* *Societal* *Technological* *Economic*

Short-term (2 years)

Ranking	***Risk***
1	*Geoeconomic confrontation*
2	*Misinformation and disinformation*
3	*Societal polarisation*
4	*Extreme weather events*
5	*State-based armed conflict*
6	*Cyber-insecurity*
7	*Inequality*
8	*Erosion of human rights/civic freedoms*
9	*Pollution*
10	*Involuntary migration or displacement*

Long-term (10 years)

Ranking	***Risk***
1	*Extreme weather events*
2	*Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse*
3	*Critical change to earth systems*
4	*Misinformation and disinformation*
5	*Adverse outcomes of AI technologies*
6	*Natural resource shortages*
7	*Inequality*
8	*Cyber-insecurity*
9	*Societal polarisation*
10	*Pollution*

… Source: World Economic Forum

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Pittwater Probus Archers

Our intrepid warriors took up arms for an Archery lesson with the Warringah Archers on Saturday 17th October at Cromer.

Just out of interest, our supremo cameraman, Michael Mannington OAM has demonstrated some very fast photography of Charles Hill taking aim and then sending his arrow on its way.

Michael's camera takes 127 photos every second.

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PIG Investment Group

Join the Probus money men at 10 30 am Wednesday 4th November at the Mona Vale Golf Club Café as they start to tally up the 2026 portfolio performaces.

The Taste of Spring

The prawns have arrived, so take a moment to mark in your diary, 5 00 pm Friday 4th December for the first Prawn Pod gathering of the season.

The assembly of this ritualistic Probus event will be at Bayview (next to the tennis courts) to enjoy the most enticing prawns and oysters from the Prawn Pod.

Join the team and bring your chairs and refreshments. No need to book ahead, just roll up.

Sunset Sips – Friday 30th October 2026

It's Spring!

So, time to get out and prepare for summer.

Taste a cool white to welcome the season change!
Join the team at the Mona Vale Surf Club and celebrate!

Sunset Sips 5 00 pm Friday 30th October 2026

October 2026 Accounts

Opening Balance 1 October 2026	**$5,669.34**
Morning Coffee Receipts	$170.00
Raffle	$150.00
Sea Wave	$715.00
Archery	$130.00
James Craig	$326.00
Prepayment Christmas Function	$195.00
Total Receipts	**$1,686.00**
Morning Coffee – MVSC/Biscuits	$133.20
Cost of Committee Meeting Room Hire	$40.00
Sea Wave	$1,380.00
Archery	$312.00
James Craig	$1,458.00
Total Payments	**$3,323.20**
Closing Balance 31 October 2026	**$4,032.14**

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Probus Up-Coming Activities

	November 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***3rd***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 10:00 am***
Wednesday	***4th***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am Mona Vale Golf Club***
Tuesday	***10th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – Andrew Greer – Botswana 5 Minute Speaker – Richard White – Aussie in Asia Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Friday	***13th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Friday	***13th***	***BBQ at Winnererremy Bay – 5 00 pm, $5 00 per head.***
Saturday	***14th***	***James Craig Sail – Meet Pyrmont 9 15 am***
Friday	***27th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***
	December 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***1st***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 10:00 am***
Wednesday	***2nd***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am Mona Vale Golf Club***
Friday	***4th***	***Prawn Pod Bayview – 5 00 pm,***
Tuesday	***8th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – Ian Thompson – Australian Inventions No 5 Minute Speaker – Christmas Mince Pies***
Friday	***11th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Friday	***18th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club – 1 week earlier***

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Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

Meeting	13th October 2026. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by President Bob Horton who welcomed 34 members. 2 visitors. Terry Lane and Peter Lion.
Apologies	John Shewood, Bob Anderson, Bruce Gorringe, Peter Mayman, John Crawford, John Porter, Ken Boyes.
Inductions	None.
Minutes	Minutes of the September 2026 meeting were published in the October 2026 Newsletter. Moved Brent Baker. Seconded Richard White. Carried.
Matters Arising from Minutes	Forecast 4 committee positions vacant in 2027.
Welfare Report	Charles Hill advised Allan Woods is OK does not requires a pick-up. George Crowley is OK. Ken Plumb no response.
Correspondence	PSPL correspondence only.
Secretary's Report	Thanked members for responding to the survey. Reminder for the James Craig.
Treasurer's Report	Warwick Pope advised the September 2026 accounts were published in the October Newsletter. Balance 1st September 2026. Balance 30th September $5,669.34. Moved Trevor Stephens. Seconded Richard White. Carried.
Birthdays	Bian Kennedy, Ken Plumb, Ray Brooks, Frank Rose.
Activities & Functions	Charles Hill advised Sea Wave Dinner 15th October. Archery lessons 17th October. Sunset Sips Friday 30th September at MVSC. Weekly coffee group. November, BBQ, James Craig Sailing, Past President's Lunch. December, Prawn Pod, Christmas Lunch.
Speakers	Brent Baker advised speaker for November to talk to us again. This time on Botswana. December Speaker is Ian Thompsom on Australian Inventions.
Newsletter & Website	Continue to enjoy.
Golf	Warwick Pope reported That John Harston picked up the trophy.
Investment Group	John Harston gave an open invitation to join the PIG meeting. Meet at Mona Vale Golf Club at 10 30 am, first Wednesday.
General Business	Charles Hill reported on the Strategic Membership Review – feedback requested on the forum notes issued to members before the meeting. Issues include falling membership, committee positions vacant.
Speakers	Rod Nunn gave the 5-Minute talk on QANTAS. After the break, Brent Baker invited Andrew Greer to give his talk on Tanzania. The President thanked the speaker.
Next Meeting	Meeting closed at 12 00 pm. Next Meeting 10th November 2026 at Mona Vale Surf Club commencing at 10 00 am.

2026 Office Bearers

President	**Bob Horton**	**Activities Officer**	**John Rodger**
Vice President	***(Vacant)***	**Newsletter Editor**	**Ron Seldon**
Secretary	**David Cant**	**Speaker Organiser**	**Brent Baker**
Treasurer	**Warwick Pope**	**Functions Officer**	**Charles Hill**
Welfare Officer	**Charles Hill**	**Past President (Ex-Officio)**	**Charles Hill**

2026 Support Officers

Golf Convenor	**Warwick Pope**	**Probus Investment Grp.**	**John Harston**
Activities & Functions Committee	**John Rodger, Charles Hill, Bill Sherman, David James, John Rourke, David Cant.**	**Speakers Committee**	**Brent Baker, Bill Sherman, David James, Charles Hill**

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